

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention provides mechanisms for transferring processor control of multiple network connections between two component devices of a computerized system, such as between a host CPU and a NIC. In one aspect of the invention, two or more network communications may each have a different state object in the upper layers of a network protocol stack, and have a common state object in the lower layers (e.g., the Framing Layer) of the network protocol stack. In part due to the commonalities in the lower software layer states, the invention provides for offloading processor control of multiple network communications at once, including long and short-lived connections. In addition, the invention can negotiate with an alternative peripheral device to offload the network communication to the alternative peripheral device in the event of a failover event, and provides a solution to incoming data packets destined for one or more VLANs.

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